TOMB OF ST. JAMES.
Small stones indicate graves of the Jews.

Clever Assurance Fraud.

The most amusing assurance fraud on record is one of the oldest, says Leslie's Monthly. It dates back to 1730 or thereabouts, when it was worked three times by a young woman with an extraordinary power of simulating death, and an elderly man, who passed for her uncle. Twice in different parts of England, she assured her life in her uncle's favor, went into convulsions, and, to all appearances, died. The third time the game was played with an ingenious variation. The uncle went to a life assurance company, explained that he was in financial straits, and wished to borrow money on his niece's estate. To compensate for such a loan, he would have to insure her life for its value, but could not afford to have this assurance become known, as it would expose his financial condition, and ruin his credit. The company therefore agreed to write the assurance under a bond of secrecy. As usual, the young woman went into convulsions, and died. Before her funeral she lay in state for all to see. Her uncle was prostrated. He did not try to collect the assurance for some months, and when he did, the company paid him in full, with expressions of real sympathy. So did nine other companies which he had silenced by the same ruse, and he joined his niece on the continent with a very impressive fortune.
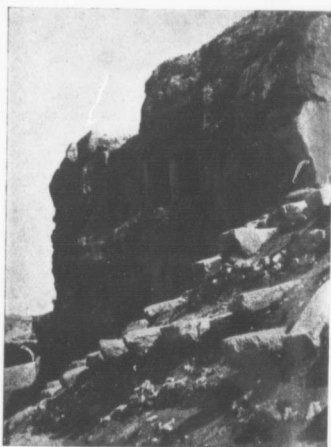
❧ ❧

To-day.

O thou, close-wrapped, a goddess in disguise!
It needs but one determined, fearless stroke
To tear aside thy gray and homely cloak,
When lo! like splendid lamps shine thy deep
    eyes
On him who has the gift to recognize.
To-morrow's beauty pales beside thy face,
And yesterday sinks to her rightful place—
Forgotten stars that fade at thy sunrise!

To-morrow is a dream, she is not mine,
And yesterday is dead and tearwet clay—
But thou, born new each morn, deathless, divine,
Thou rulest life and fate, O great To-day!
For to the door of Opportunity
Thou, and thou only, holdest forth the key.

—Venita Seibert, in McClure's Magazine.

TOMB OF JEREMIAH.